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**PERU**

**STATEMENT BY MR ALFREDO FORTES GARCÍA  
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU TO THE OPCW AT  
THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Allow me to welcome you and, at the same time, offer you the support of my delegation in bringing this session of the Council to a successful conclusion.

My delegation endorses what was said by the distinguished Ambassador of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

My delegation also wants to express its gratitude for the insightful opening statement made by the Director-General, covering, as is did, the various items on the agenda of this session of the Council.

I should like to convey our recognition to the Syrian Arab Republic, the Technical Secretariat, the Director-General and all those States and members of the Executive Council who offered their cooperation for the huge task that was the completion of the removal of chemical weapons from Syrian territory and was, at the same time, an important stage in the plan for the destruction of the Syrian arsenals.

On 30 June last, the deadline set by this Council for the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons expired, but we see, nevertheless, that a number of very important tasks still remain outstanding.

Firstly, the adoption is now urgent of combined plans for the destruction and verification of twelve chemical weapons production facilities. These facilities ought to have been destroyed by 15 March of this year. My delegation, therefore, urges the delegations concerned to redouble their efforts in the negotiations to achieve consensus on the early adoption of the said plans.

Secondly, the work being done by the Technical Secretariat on the examination of the Syrian Arab Republic's initial declaration should be concluded as a matter of urgency, to ensure that the declaration is complete and accurate. Therefore, we call on the Syrian Arab Republic to continue to cooperate in this important matter, in order to clarify possible discrepancies and determine if it is necessary to effect amendments to the initial declaration.



The commitment of the Syrian Government to comply with the decisions adopted by the Executive Council must be reflected in the accuracy and completeness of its initial declaration, and, moreover, in the destruction of the facilities in accordance with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We recently received the preliminary report of the Fact-Finding Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic, for the month of May, and we are extremely concerned to note the results submitted by the Technical Secretariat relating to the use of chlorine gas in the Syrian Arab Republic.

While the attack on the Mission and consequent lack of access prevented the Mission from submitting definitive conclusions, the report stresses that the information available lends credence to the view that, in a number of attacks, toxic chemicals – probably pulmonary irritants such as chlorine – have been used systematically. It is for that reason relevant to renew the appeal of this Council to all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic to give their full cooperation to the Mission and to guarantee that it can work in a safe, effective fashion.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, my delegation welcomes the inclusion of item 13 on the Council's agenda: Education and Outreach.

Peru feels that education and outreach is an extremely important aspect of the OPCW's work, because of the contribution it makes to the objectives of the Organisation and of the Chemical Weapons Convention, especially in spreading awareness of the topics of disarmament and non-proliferation among professionals, educational institutions and society as a whole, as well as for national implementation of the Convention.

I should be obliged if this statement could be considered an official document of this session of the Council.

Many thanks, Mr Chairman.

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